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SENSITIVE
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FOR G/TIP, NEA/RA, AND NEA/MAG

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TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PHUM](#) [SMIG](#) [KTIP](#) [KCRM](#) [KWMN](#) [TS](#)
SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR PRESSES FOREIGN MINISTRY ON TIP

REF: A. TUNIS 831
[1](#)B. TUNIS 775
[1](#)C. TUNIS 758

Sensitive but unclassified. Please protect accordingly.

(SBU) On November 19, the Ambassador pressed Mourad Belhassan, Deputy Director of the Foreign Ministry's Americas Desk, on the Embassy's outstanding request for a meeting with the Ministry of Justice's Coordinator General, Rida Khemakhem, whom the Justice Minister had previously named as a point of contact on TIP (ref c). Belhassan reiterated the GOT's view that Tunisia's placement on the Tier II Watchlist was not in line with realities in the country, but accepted the Ambassador's argument that regularizing our bilateral dialogue on TIP was key to reconciling our different perspectives on trafficking in Tunisia. The Embassy will continue to press for this and other opportunities for substantive engagement with the GOT on TIP.

GRAY